United Nations S/PV.5459

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5459th meeting

Wednesday, 14 June 2006, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Guan Jian
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mrs. Telalian
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Ms. Zanelli
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kuzmin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Olson

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-38720 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Sudan in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Manis (Sudan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo: I welcome this opportunity to update the Council on the activities undertaken by my Office since my last report in December.

In adopting resolution 1593 (2005), the Council affirmed that justice and accountability are critical to achieving lasting peace and security in Darfur. This position is reinforced in resolution 1674 (2006), which concludes that the prevention of armed conflict requires a comprehensive approach and that ending impunity, through appropriate national and international mechanisms, is essential to ensuring the non-recurrence of abuses.

My Office is committed to contributing to this comprehensive approach by investigating and prosecuting crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC). My Office will, in due course, select those to be prosecuted on the basis of the evidence collected and will present its conclusions to the judges. The judges will make the final decision as to who will be tried by our Court. In accordance with our rules and policies, we will make such a presentation only when we have gathered comprehensive and solid evidence of individual responsibility for crimes committed in Darfur and thoroughly analysed the admissibility of our cases. That will guarantee both fair and expeditious trials.

Given the scale of the alleged crimes committed in Darfur and the complexities associated with the identification of those individuals bearing greatest responsibility for the crimes, my Office currently anticipates the investigation and prosecution of a sequence of cases, rather than a single case dealing with the situation in Darfur as a whole.

The gravity of the crimes is central to the process of case selection. My Office looks at factors such as the scale and nature of the crimes, as well as the impact of ICC investigations and prosecutions in the prevention of further crimes. In the context of Darfur, particular attention will be given to investigating crimes currently affecting the lives and safety of the 2 million displaced civilians in the region, in an effort to improve conditions for humanitarian assistance and to protect victims from further attack. The Office needs to gather sufficient information on these crimes to meet the evidential standards in the Statute.

My Office is collecting all available information from outside Darfur and has managed to make progress in its work despite serious obstacles. I wish to emphasize, however, that we are now entering a new phase in which unconditional cooperation will be essential to expeditiously complete the investigation and identify those most responsible for crimes

committed in Darfur. Our speed will depend on the cooperation received.

The full cooperation of the Government of the Sudan and other parties to the conflict is, of course, vital. Furthermore, the cooperation of those organizations with a significant presence on the ground, such as the African Union and the United Nations, is and will continue to be essential.

My previous reports to the Council have highlighted the slow progress of cooperation between the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and my Office. Since December 2005, we have engaged on a number of occasions with AMIS and the African Union, seeking to expedite cooperation. I have also offered to brief the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on our activities and on the importance of reinforcing mutual efforts to ensure justice and accountability. Representatives of my Office have also met with AMIS in Khartoum and have delivered a detailed request for information relevant to the investigation.

I welcome the recent statement of the Peace and Security Council of 10 March 2006, supporting cooperation between the African Union and the Court in Darfur. I have also received confirmations in writing from both Ambassador Konare and Ambassador Kingibe of the commitment of the African Union to cooperate fully with the ICC and of the Union's determination to assist in the fight against impunity. In addition, I have been invited to brief the African Union Peace and Security Council in the near future on progress in the context of resolution 1593 (2005). Those are signals that cooperation will now be forthcoming. It is important to reiterate that the assistance of the African Union remains a component fundamental to progress in key aspects of the investigation.

In December 2005, the Office of the Prosecutor reported to the Security Council on a series of cooperation requests that had been made to the Government of the Sudan. These included a request to visit the Sudan to assess national proceedings relating to Darfur and a request to conduct several interviews of officials identified by my Office. Those officials, owing to their positions, functions and experience, could provide insights into the events in Darfur, the activities of all parties to the conflict and the manner in which the Government of the Sudan sought to address the situation.

Pursuant to the first request, a delegation of the Prosecutor's Office, with the objective of assessing national proceedings, visited the Sudan in February 2006 for an extensive programme of meetings with judges, prosecutors and representatives of the police force and other Government departments. The Government of the Sudan cooperated with the Office in allowing access to the requested officials in meetings that were formally video recorded. In addition to the interviews of officials requested by the Office, the Government facilitated meetings with the Governor of South Darfur and with representatives of the Commission demarcating nomadic routes, offering further information on the situation in Darfur.

During this mission and throughout this reporting period, the Office has gathered significant amounts of information to determine whether the Government of the Sudan has dealt with, or is dealing with, the cases that my Office is likely to select for prosecution. The Government of the Sudan has also provided significant amounts of information relating to the conduct of traditional tribal reconciliation mechanisms in Darfur. These are not criminal proceedings as such for the purpose of assessing the admissibility of cases before the International Criminal Court, but they are an important part of the fabric of reconciliation for Darfur, as recognized in resolution 1593 (2005).

In previous reports, the Office of the Prosecutor has highlighted the fact that the admissibility assessment is a case-specific assessment, not a judgement on the Sudan justice system as a whole. Once I identify cases for prosecution, I must determine whether or not the national authorities are conducting or have conducted national proceedings genuinely in relation to those cases.

It is clear that the national authorities face significant challenges to the conduct of effective criminal proceedings in Darfur. The special courts appear to remain relatively inaccessible, with judges performing other duties in Khartoum, awaiting the start of trials in Darfur. Limited resources and specialized expertise, with reliance on existing infrastructure for investigations, are also hampering progress. Some efforts have been made by the Government of the Sudan to rectify those deficiencies, but these efforts

have also reportedly been restricted by the lack of security on the ground.

Many of the investigation mechanisms are reactive to complaints, but there is a reluctance or an inability on the part of witnesses and victims to come forward with complaints, and in some cases there are allegations of intimidation and harassment of complainants. That is particularly prevalent in the context of rape allegations. The lack of any system for the protection of witnesses is also a strong disincentive for complainants and presents a serious obstacle to the conduct of any effective national criminal proceedings.

On the basis of our current assessment, it does not appear that the national authorities have investigated or prosecuted — or are investigating and prosecuting — cases that are or will be the focus of our attention, in such a way as to render those cases inadmissible before the ICC. We reinforce the point, made in previous reports, that this assessment is ongoing and that a final determination will be made when specific cases are selected for prosecution. That will require the continued cooperation of the Government of the Sudan in providing access to proceedings, officials and institutions, including in Darfur.

With respect to the request to conduct other interviews related to activities undertaken in Darfur, I reported in December that we had agreed with the Sudanese authorities that, in preparation of the interviews, the Ministry of Defence would cooperate in establishing and submitting in advance a comprehensive report on matters specified by my Office.

At the start of May 2006, the Government of the Sudan submitted a written report responding to questions from my Office. This report provides information on the various phases of the conflict from the Government's perspective, on matters relating to the military and security structures operating in Darfur, the activities of other parties to the conflict and the legal system governing the conduct of military operations. The written report was supplemented by an oral exchange in a meeting between representatives of my Office and military officers in Khartoum last week.

The requested interviews that were to follow up on the report had not yet taken place. However, the Government of the Sudan has recently agreed that they can start in August 2006. These interviews are extremely important in order to establish a comprehensive and complete account of events in Darfur since July 2002. In accordance with the Rome Statute, we are obliged to investigate not only incriminating but also exonerating circumstances. Because my Office is conducting its investigation from outside the Sudan, access to all parties in the conflict will be extremely important to allow us to fully test and corroborate the numerous accounts and allegations of crimes.

In addition to the moral duty, my Office is under a legal obligation to protect victims and witnesses. The absence of a functioning and sustainable system for their protection continues to prohibit an effective investigation inside Darfur. The investigative activities of the Office therefore continued in several countries outside Darfur, including Chad, until April 2006, when they were suspended as a result of clashes between Government and rebel forces. Operations are expected to resume soon.

The Office has already gathered significant amounts of information and evidence on crimes committed in Darfur. The International Criminal Court has jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide. Various allegations have been made that some of the groups involved in the commission of crimes in Darfur did so with specific genocidal intent. This issue remains the subject of investigation. I have not, and I will not, draw any conclusions as to the character of the crimes pending the completion of a full and impartial investigation.

Identifying those persons with the greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes in Darfur is a key challenge for the investigation. The complexity of the conflict in Darfur exacerbates this challenge, given that it involves multiple parties and varies over time and across different states and localities. As stated in previous reports, the list of 51 names provided by the International Commission of Inquiry for Darfur is, of course, not binding on my Office, and I will keep this list confidential.

My Office has also noted the developments in the work of the United Nations sanctions committee and the listing of individuals for the purpose of sanctions. This list is in no way connected to the process of identification of individuals for possible prosecution by the ICC. It is important to reinforce the fact that the

mandate and activities of the sanctions committee and the ICC are distinct.

My Office will not present evidence or identify suspects to the media or other institutions. We are an independent body bound by the Rome Statute and by rules of due process, including specific evidentiary standards. The best contribution of the ICC to a meaningful and lasting solution in Darfur will be to fulfil its judicial mandate in accordance with those rules and standards.

My Office will, in due course, identify those to be prosecuted on the basis of the evidence collected and present its conclusions to the judges.

The ICC is a complementary international mechanism for the delivery of justice for the most serious international crimes. The concern of the ICC is to see that effective justice is delivered to the victims of the crimes in Darfur. That can be achieved either at the national level where the domestic authorities are genuinely willing and able to prosecute those most responsible for the most serious crimes, or by the ICC, or by both. In the coming phase, the Office will seek to complete the investigation of the first case and will continue to assess, on an ongoing basis, the admissibility of selected cases.

I have stressed throughout this presentation the need for cooperation in order to ensure accountability, not only for past but also for present crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court that continue to affect the displaced population in Darfur. Our justice effort should contribute to their protection and to the prevention of further crimes. We need more information on groups that continue to attack the displaced population or to impede the latter's access to humanitarian assistance.

We turn to this Council to assist us in obtaining this and other types of cooperation essential to implementing resolution 1593 (2005).

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Manis (The Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Madam President, I am pleased to address you today. The Security Council mission has returned from a very important, significant and historic visit to my country, which allowed the Council the opportunity to understand the reality of the situation in the field in Darfur and in the Sudan in general. The mission has clearly understood the root causes of the crisis and its internal and external aspects, particularly since this visit has come after the signing of the Darfur peace agreement, which the Council well knows was reached on 5 May, after a difficult period.

As we listen today to the report of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which reflects very important aspects of the cooperation that is established with the Government of the Sudan, we have to affirm that the Sudan has viewed all the relevant Security Council resolutions on the crisis in Darfur as issued by the United Nations, of which we are a committed and active Member. On the basis of this principle, our commitment is to cooperate fully in accordance with requirements of these resolutions.

With regard to today's meeting, we should point out that the Sudanese Government responded positively to resolution 1593 (2005) and has begun the process of consulting with the Prosecutor and his assistants, including through visits by them to the Sudan. We believe that that communication and cooperation has had a number of positive results, some of which we would like to highlight.

The Prosecutor quickly came to an understanding of the situation. He was briefed on the history of the Sudanese judiciary, its independence and its capacity, along with related judicial organs, with regard to establishing the rule of law. The Prosecutor has understood the reasons for the deterioration of the situation in Darfur and the security vacuum which led to attacks on police stations and the ensuing events, including tribal confrontations and conflict among political factions and elements, which led to an escalation of the situation and the consequent widespread violations, of which everyone is aware.

Our police and prosecutors are prosecuting the perpetrators of those crimes. The Prosecutor learned about a great many cases that have been decided and about charges and allegations that have been followed up since a special prosecutor was appointed to look into those cases in Darfur. Special courts have been established and have handed down many criminal sentences, including execution and life imprisonment. The Prosecutor also had the opportunity to better understand how best to deal with security and tribal problems and disputes.

As it continued its cooperation with the Prosecutor, the Government gave him the opportunity

to put questions to the armed forces. Those questions were answered, and a delegation from the Office of the Prosecutor recently visited the Sudan seeking further details concerning the responses provided by the Sudanese Armed Forces. During their visits to the Sudan, the Prosecutor's delegation had an opportunity to meet representatives of 13 judicial and investigative mechanisms, including prosecutors and judges dealing with events in Darfur, among them judges entrusted by the Government with following up cases to assess losses resulting from the events, which harmed tens of thousands of citizens, and the measures taken by the Government with a view to providing compensation.

The Prosecutor has received testimony from the National Investigation Commission and has reviewed its recommendations. He has learned about the measures taken by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior in prosecuting those accused of the events in Darfur. There have been meetings with many officials from provinces in Darfur with a view to understanding the general situation and to seeking their views on how to prosecute the accused, and on how to establish the rule of law and mend the social fabric.

There is no doubt that a political settlement is the best possible solution and is the key to achieving stability, justice and peace in Darfur. With the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement, which was sponsored by the African Union and to which the United Nations, including the Security Council, the European Union and many other partners contributed, we now have a bridge to security and stability. However, as the Council knows, the Peace Agreement faces many and various challenges, the most significant of which is the fact that some armed groups are outside the framework of the Agreement. In addition, some people in Darfur have doubts about the Agreement — a matter that requires encouragement, confidence-building and reconciliation measures among the various elements of society in Darfur.

The Darfur Peace Agreement deals in detail with all of the elements of the question of Darfur. The parties that have signed the Agreement are trying to implement their commitments. That endeavour will not be successful unless it is accompanied by efforts at the grass-roots level, which is characterized by extreme tribal intolerance. These could include activating traditional dispute- and conflict-settlement mechanisms and bringing about reconciliation — an approach that has been taken many times in the history of Darfur and a traditional custom in Africa in general and in Darfur in particular.

Mending the social fabric through efforts aimed at reconciliation, amnesty and the satisfactory resolution of problems among the various Darfur tribes is necessary and of fundamental importance if peace is to be established in Darfur. That is an effort that we hope will enjoy the support and encouragement of the African Union and the international community, including the Security Council, in keeping with paragraph 5 of resolution 1593 (2005).

The Government of the Sudan will continue its efforts to establish the rule of law and justice through the courts and other mechanisms set up in Darfur, to put an end to impunity and to hold accountable all those convicted of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Moreover, we now have a new agreement which requires wise stewardship and proper implementation so as to ensure that peace can become a concrete reality among the tribes. That will require a balanced approach aimed at achieving the rule of law and establishing peace so that justice will be merged with amnesty and forgiveness and so that peace and coexistence will arise spontaneously and easily among the tribes, which will move beyond the bitterness of the past. Providing an opportunity for social traditions, values and customs is an important element during this phase, because peace and stability must come about as a result of the people's will before there can be an agreement on paper.

We therefore believe that the current political, security and social conditions in Darfur call for the Security Council's support for efforts towards an internal dialogue in Darfur with a view to achieving peaceful coexistence. That, in line with all that I have said, is the easiest way to establish the rule of law and lasting peace.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to a private meeting following the adjournment of this meeting.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5460

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 June 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5460th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 14 June 2006, at 3.45 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5460th meeting, held in private on 14 June 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan'.

"In accordance with the decision taken at the 5459th meeting held earlier on 14 June 2006, the President extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

"The members of the Council and Mr. Luis Moreno-Ocampo had an exchange of views."

06-38833 (E) 140606

United Nations S/PV.5461

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5461st meeting

Thursday, 15 June 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Yankey
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. Ruiz Rosas
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Salaita
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 10 June 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/375)

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06-38889 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 10 June 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/375)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Lebanon, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Boutros Assaker (Lebanon) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/375, which contains the text of a letter dated 10 June 2006 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the fourth report of the International Independent Investigation Commission.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2006/278, which contains the text of a letter dated 5 May 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon addressed to the Secretary-General. Members also have before them document S/2006/392, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1686 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5462

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5462nd meeting

Thursday, 15 June 2006, 10.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Sudan, Chad and the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa

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06-38895 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by the Security Council mission to the Sudan, Chad and the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Council will hear briefings by His Excellency Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Head of the Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière, who jointly led the Chad leg of the Council mission, and His Excellency Mr. Augustine Mahiga, a member of the Council mission.

I would like to welcome the return of the members of the Council and of the Secretariat who took part in the mission to the Sudan and Chad.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Sir Emyr Jones Parry, Head of the Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): May I begin by thanking all members of the Council who participated in this mission. Their commitment and solidarity made it a particularly useful and timely visit. I am also grateful to the Secretariat for its assistance and participation.

The report which follows is made under my own responsibility.

It is now almost three years since the Council first began to debate whether the Sudan was an appropriate subject for its agenda. Grave problems had emerged in Darfur, and relations between Khartoum and the periphery were increasingly difficult. Much has happened since then. To date the Council has adopted seven resolutions on the Sudan and two presidential statements. Those of us who visited the region can be in no doubt as to the appropriateness of the Council's attention to the Sudan and the wider region. For me, the question is not whether we should be involved in the Sudan and Darfur, but, rather, whether we have been able to do as much as we ought. That view was reinforced by the visit to Chad.

The Sudan, the biggest country in Africa, is very complex. Darfur has rightly seized the attention of the world, but the situation there is very complicated. During its visit, the mission found that the conflict was not fully understood by the international community. It found, for example, that the terms "Government", "rebel", "Arab" and "African" were often oversimplifications of a more complex situation on the ground, where alliances between tribes and groups often shift. The porous — or non-existent — border with Chad exacerbates this. A number of the Council's interlocutors described the situation in Darfur as a traditional conflict between herdsmen and farmers over limited national resources. They outlined the challenging nature of governing a region with its particular and peculiar tribal complexities and lack of public services.

A lasting solution to the problem in Darfur can be found only on the basis of the traditions and the customs of the peoples of the region. Indeed, the Government of the Sudan's support for an African Union (AU) rather than a United Nations force in Darfur is partly motivated by its belief that African States possess a similar heritage to that of the people of Darfur. We will need to continue to stress to the Government of the Sudan that any United Nations force in Darfur must have a strong African participation and character.

In the north-south context, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement marked the cessation of hostilities, but the Government of National Unity is still a young body.

It was important that the mission begin its work in Khartoum and emphasize its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan. We stressed that the Security Council wishes to work in partnership with the Government and the other main actors in the Sudan to help tackle the range of problems which the country faces. That assistance today is expressed in the United Nations peacekeeping Mission in the south — the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) — by the work of Special Representative Jan Pronk, which I commend, and by the huge involvement of the United Nations agencies delivering support to the people of the Sudan. But if it

is the Security Council's role to promote international peace and security, correspondingly it is the obligation of the Government of the Sudan to protect its citizens and to respond positively to the offers of help from us and from others.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated this year. Humanitarian access has not been consistent and has diminished. Attacks on individuals, particularly women, have increased. The Wali of north Darfur told the mission that there are 129,000 internally displaced persons in camps in north Darfur, with another 279,000 internally displaced persons outside them. A further 622,000 people have been affected by that conflict, bringing the overall total affected by the conflict in Darfur to 1.31 million people. On a positive note, the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) has been on the ground for 12 months, and its peace troops have been delivering improved security to the people of Darfur in exceptionally difficult circumstances. Thanks in particular to the African Union, and with the support of others, the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in Abuja on 5 May. Support for that Agreement is not homogeneous among the different groupings in Darfur, nor is opposition consistent among those parties that have declined to sign the Agreement.

Two truths seemed clear to the mission: first, the Agreement needs to be sold urgently to those living in the region and those displaced elsewhere; and, secondly, its implementation is key to peace in Darfur, peace in the Sudan, and peace in the wider region. We heard many interlocutors describe what was wrong with the accord. It is not perfect, but it is the only agreement that we have, and, in the view of the mission, it needs to be implemented robustly. We encouraged those who had not joined the Agreement to do so as soon as possible.

In support of the Agreement, the United Nations family, particularly the World Food Programme, has now the largest food support operation in the world in Darfur. Hundreds of tonnes of food are delivered daily by convoys coming all the way from Port Sudan and up from the south, much of the time on unmade roads — the line of white trucks visibly delivering life-saving relief.

In Addis Ababa, the mission found itself in full agreement with the African Union that, at the earliest opportunity, the United Nations should take over the peacekeeping role in Darfur. President Konaré and the Peace and Security Commissioner, Mr. Djinnit, emphasized that this was the wish of the African Union. The AU, for its part, has done a very good job, starting from scratch in difficult circumstances. We emphasized that fact in our meetings with the Commander of AMIS in Darfur. But sustaining such a force; rotating its troops; providing the necessary capacities, including command, control and communications; delivering financing; implementing the more robust post-Abuja mandate — they are all difficult challenges. Hence the agreement that it was time for the wider international community to share the burden and provide a United Nations force in Darfur.

A primary purpose of our visit and of our discussions was to persuade the Sudanese Government that this was the best option for Darfur and for the country. In Khartoum, we found many hostile perceptions of a United Nations deployment, fuelled in part by concern at the adoption of resolution 1679 (2006) under Chapter VII. That Chapter is clearly a major irritant for the Government, the President and parliamentarians in Khartoum.

For our part, we explained that Chapter VII was a technical, not a political, issue. A Chapter VII mandate is likely to be required for any United Nations force in Darfur, to enable the force to give the necessary protection to civilians and to itself. Chapter VII would help the United Nations implement the Darfur Peace Agreement, which is what the Government wants. Chapter VII would only mean that the United Nations mission in Darfur has the same mandate as nearly all United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa, including, at the moment, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — which the Council visited after the Sudan — Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

It was always likely that the Government of the Sudan would not agree during the visit that this transfer should take place. But the mission had an important role in explaining why we thought this was in the interests of the Sudan and encouraging them to take on our view.

The process to get agreement from the Government of the Sudan may be tortuous. By the end of our visit, the mission felt we had edged further towards the probability of the Government of the Sudan accepting such a deployment.

Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno and his colleagues from the African Union are now in

Khartoum and in the region as a technical assessment mission. Our mission considers that they should have two objectives. First, to secure the agreement of the Government of the Sudan to strengthening the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) so that it is better able to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and thus protect civilians until a United Nations force is deployed. And secondly, to then identify with the Government of the Sudan the transition arrangements if AMIS is to be gradually replaced by a United Nations force. That is the intention, and in my view it is crucial that it be agreed upon very quickly and the necessary planning completed urgently.

Security in Darfur must be quickly improved in order to cope with the present array of attacks. Civilians must be afforded protection, their rights assured and impunity for abusers ended. That is why we need to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement and quickly strengthen the role of AMIS. To secure the agreement of the Government to the transfer, I assume that the AMIS mandate must first be strengthened to reflect the need to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement, and that the United Nations should then take over that same mandate. If that is agreed, then it will be for the Council to draft and agree the necessary resolution to provide the mandate for the United Nations force.

President Bashir made it clear that he did not think external troops should be mandated to attack Sudanese. He therefore accepted that control of the Janjaweed — long sought by the Council and a precondition for the security of persons in Darfur — was the responsibility of his Government. We look to them to fulfil that responsibility now.

But while the international community's attention is rightly focused on the problems of Darfur, the mission left with a clear sense that we should not lose sight of the wider problems in the Sudan, in particular in the south. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which marked the cessation of hostilities, is being taken forward. But the mission found that implementation is slow. International donations to the South are also drying up.

In one of the more sobering comments made, a member of the southern Sudan parliament reminded the mission that were southern Sudan a country, it would be the poorest in the world. Yet Darfur's future is inexorably linked to that of the south and the south's to that of Darfur. A holistic solution is required, that addresses all of the countries problems through a coordinated response of the range of bodies in the United Nations family. Security is of paramount importance. But it cannot be viewed in isolation from the humanitarian or social initiatives.

The Council, in November 2004, travelled to Nairobi, and in its work there contributed to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement concluded in January 2005. Our mission was united in pressing for the implementation of the Agreement. We visited the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and were impressed by the work it carries out on the ground. We met with President Kiir of southern Sudan — who is also Vice-President of Sudan — and with his ministerial colleagues, and discussed implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

It was clear that the Agreement remains fragile, and that there is a continuing risk to civilians outside the main towns. President Kiir also stated clearly that implementation of the Agreement was essential. Without it, there would be no Agreement, and, with no Agreement, war would be probable. Those were the words of the President of southern Sudan: a stark warning of the crucial importance of moving forward on the full implementation of the Agreement. As we left Juba, we paid our respects at the tomb of Mr. John Garang, who negotiated the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, whose death has been such a loss to the peace process and to southern Sudan.

In the south, we also discussed the problems caused in the region by the attacks launched by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). That scourge is present in southern Sudan, and also in the Garamba Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as affecting northern Uganda. Its activities over 19 years have led to more than 1.7 million internally displaced persons and to many deaths. The need to overcome this small group of people who are causing such havoc throughout the region is only too obvious. The Government in the south is making overtures to the LRA, hoping that it can persuade them to negotiate peace with the Government of Uganda. Clearly, there is a need for a political process to entice the bulk of LRA members away from the leadership and to try to reintegrate them into their societies. But there must be real doubt about the extent to which Kony and the other indictees are in any way prepared to work for peace and to put aside their appalling record.

In my view, they need to face justice in The Hague. I have separately asked the Secretary-General, in following up the mandate in resolutions 1653 (2006) and 1663 (2006), to provide the Council with a written report on the regional dimension of the LRA, because we need to put in place a comprehensive response by the international community, given the obvious threat to regional peace and security which the LRA still poses.

In Addis Ababa, we had a full exchange, not just on Darfur, AMIS and a United Nations peacekeeping operation, but on wider issues. President Konare set out his deep concern about the situation in Somalia and described the African Union approach to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to Côte d'Ivoire, in both cases in terms very similar to those of the Security Council.

But we also noted the importance of the wider relations between the United Nations and the African Union. With foresight, Chapter VIII of the Charter addresses the role of regional organizations. Our cooperation with the African Union is a positive and timely development which has many possibilities. Peacekeeping and demobilization, destabilization and reintegration and security-sector reform are obvious candidates for cooperation. I think the United Nations has a particular responsibility to seek to help develop the capacities of the African Union and of its regional manifestations. But that responsibility goes wider. I hope that other regional groupings can increase the support that they are already giving, and that the bilateral donors will also help develop essential capacity. It is crucial in its own right, but it is particularly important that we help African initiatives to tackle African problems. Indeed, more widely, the entire United Nations family should develop closer relationships with the African Union and its various components.

We were able to have four meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations working in the Sudan and in Chad. I would like to pay tribute to their immense contributions. They, the United Nations agencies and the peacekeepers, are carrying the burden for us today in Africa. They are tackling humanitarian concerns, providing water and sanitation, delivering medical assistance and educational support and providing an essential basis for longer-term development.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in the work being done with women. We could only admire the courage of women confronting the immense burdens of life in Darfur and in the camps of Chad. With quiet dignity, they have to carry water, search for firewood, face attack and violation — not just from the Janjaweed — and, at the same time, bring up families, often without male support. Our resolution 1325 (2000) was much quoted, and so it should be. It was a landmark resolution which addressed the role of women as the particular victims of conflict, suffering disproportionately from attacks and from HIV/AIDS, often wrongly disowned by their families and with little access to medical assistance, counselling, and so on. At the same time, they lack the empowerment to play the role in political life which is not only their right but would introduce a degree of sanity into much of the activity in the region.

Thus, the need for full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) seems to me obvious. That requires a comprehensive strategy to secure the rights of women, to provide them with relief, assistance and, above all, with security, and to empower them to play their just role in society. For their part, Sudanese women have already identified a series of actions to help achieve these goals, which include urgent political, economic and social legislative reform; access to and ownership of property and land; full involvement in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes; the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and the prosecution of the perpetrators; and the establishment of women's resource centres for refugee and internally displaced women. Responding to these priorities is, in my view, essential if we are to achieve sustainable peace in the Sudan. I hope that the United Nations family, and not just in Darfur and Chad, can better play its part in working with host Governments to develop strategies which deliver these goals. Then, as effectively as possible and without duplication, the individual agencies should work to secure implementation of that strategy.

It was right that we should end our visit in Chad. After Darfur we flew to N'Djamena and then on 10 June back eastwards to the Sudanese border, where we visited the camps at Goz Beïda. The scale of the camps is huge and President Deby said that he thought that 700,000 Chadians had been displaced due to the raids being undertaken daily from Darfur.

That is the scale of the challenge, which must be met in extremely hostile climate conditions. The mission was immensely moved by the dedication of United Nations workers and non-governmental organizations as they tackle that massive task of bringing relief and assistance to so many people. Worryingly, despite being in camps, individuals, particularly women, are at risk of attack. Within the camps, we were alarmed to learn that recruitment and intimidation of persons are regularly carried out by rebel groups.

Yet the local community has embraced displaced persons and refugees as guests. It is a stark reminder of the poverty of the region to discover that local people visit camps in order to receive some medical attention, particularly to give birth, and to be guaranteed food. That is the scale of the challenge in that part of Africa.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for international peace and security. Our visit demonstrated the importance of Council action on the ground in the Sudan and in the region. But it also reminded us of the wider United Nations interest in Africa. The year 2005 was a good one for development assistance. Substantial additional resources were pledged. The Sudan and Chad underline why these resources are so desperately needed, why the Millennium Development Goals are crucial, and how their implementation is so far behind schedule today. The need to move from humanitarian to longer-term assistance is all too apparent. But Chad is the seventh-poorest country in the world. Delivering the Goals and ensuring a partnership with the international community and an accountable relationship between donor and recipient are basic to the development contract. With it goes governance, the rule of law and essential rights for the people of the region, rights which must include the protection of women and the right to development.

This was a successful visit by a united Council. We delivered messages of support and partnership but did not shirk the tougher arguments where those were necessary. The Sudan demands an integrated approach to secure the implementation of the two agreements and then to move on to tackle other issues, such as eastern Sudan. But the Sudan cannot be considered alone. It needs to be seen in a regional context. Its relationships with Chad and the situation there should be of particular concern to the Council. Of course, the Governments concerned have overall responsibility for the security and protection of their people. But it is all too apparent that the United Nations will have to strengthen its assistance, not just for security, and be prepared to do this for some time, if fragile agreements are to be implemented. Peace in Darfur is closely related to peace in the Sudan, and in turn is vital for regional peace and security.

That means that the United Nations must be prepared to provide essential support until sustainable peace and development are achieved.

The President: I now give the floor to Ambassador De La Sablière.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): First, I would like to say to our colleague, Ambassador Jones Parry, how greatly I appreciate the way in which he led our mission: intelligently, skilfully and effectively. I was pleased to work with him in jointly leading the mission in Chad.

I think it was important that we went to Chad. From their previous discussions with President Konaré at Addis Ababa, members of the Council could already appreciate the risks that the destabilization of Chad would present to the entire region. Moreover, by visiting the Goz Beïda camps not far from Abéché — camps housing refugees from Darfur and camps for persons displaced following attacks by Janjaweed from the Sudan — we were able to see how much the Darfur conflict has affected Chad. The Council must take this link between Darfur and Chad into account.

We had a long visit with President Deby. We recalled the statements issued by the Security Council and our condemnation of the 13 April attack against N'Djamena. We raised all the points that we wanted to raise within our terms of reference. All of that will be in the written record. But today I would like to stress three points.

First, as regards Darfur, President Deby reaffirmed his steadfast support for the Darfur Peace Agreement and informed us about the contacts that he had had to try to get the non-signatories to sign it. That is important, because so much depends on the Agreement, which is fragile and which must absolutely be strengthened.

Secondly, the relationship between the Sudan and Chad has deteriorated greatly. We have heard accusations from both sides, in Khartoum and in N'Djamena. When he gave us a report on the attack of

13 April, President Deby told us that his country had been the victim of aggression by the Sudan and that he would be complaining about it to the Security Council.

In accordance with our terms of reference, we stressed the importance of both countries implementing the confidence-building measures of the Tripoli Agreement. I think that the African Union can certainly be of major assistance in that area.

Thirdly, with regard to the camps, it seems that the international community is faced with two problems. At the humanitarian level, there are 300,000 refugees in Chad and 50,000 displaced persons in camps there. That is a lot of people in a very poor country, and international assistance is insufficient. Jan Egeland said as much to us. I believe that we need to help mobilize donors with a view to increasing international humanitarian assistance. The second problem relates to the protection of the camps. The camps have been politicized; we saw that for ourselves from the demonstrations that greeted us. It is said that the camp that we visited is opposed to the Peace Agreement. There was obvious manipulation. Politicization is thus a major factor, and the problem of forced recruitment is serious.

Lastly, humanitarian workers are being attacked and are very worried. President Deby expressed his concerns about that, as well as telling us that he was unable to deal with the problem — his army must first protect the borders. He would therefore like the international community to take responsibility for protecting the camps and the humanitarian workers who have to move from one camp to another.

I believe that if nothing is done in that area, we might see a serious deterioration in the situation in all respects. It would be appropriate for the Secretary-General to consider the question of international protection for the camps and to make recommendations to us. I can see only advantages to Jean-Marie Guéhenno's visiting Chad, since he is already in the region.

The President: I now give the floor to Ambassador Augustine Mahiga of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): On behalf of my African colleagues in the Council and all the members who participated in the recent Council mission to Africa, I would like to thank our team leaders, Ambassador Jones Parry and Ambassador De La Sablière, for their intrepid leadership during the mission. They were firm in conveying the Council's central objectives while extending the hand of partnership to our hosts. They kept the team focused and united, despite a gruelling timetable and the fact that we were dealing with politically sensitive issues.

We should also like to thank the representatives of the Secretary-General and their teams in the field for the excellent preparations they made for our visit, as well as the Secretariat staff who accompanied us. The interpreters had to endure unusually long hours, while the security personnel left no detail to chance. On behalf of the Council, I thank all of them.

Overall, our mission advanced to new levels the objectives that we set ourselves in the places that we visited. Our challenge is to retain the initiative and accomplish the objectives within very tight time lines. The Sudan in general and Darfur in particular will remain the most difficult areas. The visit took place against the background of an uneasy relationship with the Security Council, as we adopted tougher resolutions to protect civilians, address impunity, facilitate humanitarian assistance in Darfur and push the peace negotiations in Abuja. The unanimous adoption, just before the mission took place, of resolution 1679 (2006), with its necessary but perhaps premature reference to Chapter VII, set a difficult stage for our mission. It provided an excuse for the Sudan Government to take a harder line on the proposed transition from the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to a United Nations peacekeeping force in Darfur in implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

There is open resistance to the transition, and negative perceptions have been created among the general public regarding the intentions of the Security Council. On the other hand, the Government of the Sudan needs the Darfur Peace Agreement, with a weak implementation mechanism in the form of AMIS, which, following its initial but limited success, is unable to undertake, alone, added responsibilities.

The Security Council team conveyed to the Sudanese authorities — and tried to convince them — that transition from AMIS to a United Nations force is not an option, but an obligation. The invocation of Chapter VII is not against the Government of the Sudan and its people, but is a necessary reserve option

to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement, especially in the disarmament of entities like the Janjaweed and rebel groups, to ensure the protection of civilians and to maintain unimpeded humanitarian access.

We should continue to explain and justify Chapter VII beyond the need to maintain credibility before the international community. The Government of the Sudan maintains that it cannot yield its obligation to disarm the Janjaweed under the Darfur Peace Agreement and should not be treated as a failed State. Given that atmosphere of suspicion, a number of steps should be taken.

The talking and consultations at the diplomatic level should continue as the assessment mission continues. The operational necessities of the assessment team will demonstrate the necessity of an additional United Nations presence. The African Union should be making the case for a more robust mandate and predictable funding and the political case for partnership through the Security Council. The operational success of AMIS, with implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement, would create incremental confidence in the United Nations presence in the Sudan.

The planned visit of President Konaré after the assessment mission and before the African Union summit should be used to push further the case for international burden-sharing in implementing the Darfur Peace Agreement. The same message should come out of the Banjul summit.

In the days to come, it will be necessary for the Security Council to ensure the continuing implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the south. That is of paramount importance, because as we succeed in deploying and in working with the Sudanese Government and the southern Sudanese government, we are creating an atmosphere of confidence and mutual trust between the Security Council and the United Nations on the one hand, and the authorities in Khartoum and Juba on the other. The implementation of the Abuja Peace Agreement will very much depend on the success of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the south.

It should also be taken into account that the implementation of the Agreement is very much behind schedule. That is not because of the problems associated with the United Nations, but because of the internal constraints within the Sudanese Government and the southern Sudanese government. Nonetheless, I should highlight the following areas, which are of critical importance in sustaining the viability of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The first area is the need for expeditious demarcation of the boundaries that define the south. The second is the speedy negotiation and resolution of the controversial status of Abie, where oil resources are the centre of the controversy. The third is the clear demobilization and redeployment of forces, as set out in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The Sudan is a unique case under the Agreement, because it is going to retain three armies: the armed forces of the Sudan, the remnants of the Sudan Liberation Army and the integrated army. I should add that in addition to those three recognized armies, there are still militias in the South whose status remains controversial and needs to be defined if the Comprehensive Peace Agreement is to be stabilized.

Among the militias that are creating concern is the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Although it has crossed borders to the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, it has only made the problem regional and has in no way helped the people of southern Sudan. We continued to receive reports of civilian atrocities, which are of great concern to the government and the people of southern Sudan.

When we were in Juba, we were told that a delegation of the LRA was there and that a delegation from Uganda was being awaited for negotiations under the auspices of the government of southern Sudan. We were curious, wanting to know the status of the five indicted leaders and whether they would be part of the negotiations. The leadership was careful to make a distinction between negotiations for peace with the LRA and the culpability of the five indicted leaders. Although we were unable to obtain definite positions on what would happen, they agreed in principle on the need to apprehend the indictees and to hand them over to the International Criminal Court.

Ambassador Jones Parry has outlined our visit to Addis Ababa in great detail. Let me emphasize the following.

We had the first meeting ever between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. That offers an opportunity for continued partnership between the two organs of the

organizations under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

Secondly, the African Union has gone well beyond endorsing in principle the transition from AMIS to the United Nations; it is actually urging a more expeditious United Nations deployment. President Konaré has even written to NATO to ask for logistical support to strengthen the African Union forces in Darfur without actual ground deployment of NATO, only as an intermediary step while waiting for an expeditious transition to the United Nations peacekeeping force.

We were also encouraged by the African Union not only to continue working on the political and operational aspects in the partnership with the United Nations Security Council, but also with regard to the need to stabilize hard-won peace and peacekeeping initiatives and especially the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in subsequent cases in various parts of the continent.

As Ambassador Jones Parry pointed out, the issue of Somalia was drawn to our attention as fighting was raging in Mogadishu and beyond.

At this stage, the hope for moving the Abuja peace process forward resides with the African Union. We hope that there will be positive outcomes from the assessment mission and that President Konaré's visit to Khartoum before the summit in Banjul will push the Sudanese forward and convince them of the need for a greater United Nations presence.

As Ambassador de La Sablière pointed out, our visit to Darfur and across to Chad was important in three main respects. The first is the presence of Darfur refugees in Chad, whose loyalty is reflected in the kind of leadership that was participating in Abuja. In the camps that we visited, we saw the contradictory position of demonstrating against the Abuja process and the Abuja Peace Agreement because of the compensation component — which was lacking — and, at the same time, demanding a United Nations presence in Darfur. It should be noted that that can come about only if the United Nations is allowed to participate in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

The second challenge is related to the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps. It was scarcely 15 years ago that the Security Council faced a similar situation in the Great Lakes region. Although the situation has not reached that level of insecurity, reports of recruitment and of frequent attacks from across the border make a strong case for serious consideration of how to strengthen the civilian and humanitarian character of these refugee camps in a very volatile situation. President Deby himself has admitted that he is unable to provide the necessary security to the humanitarian staff and the refugees in the camps.

Third is the tension developing between Chad and the Sudan. President Deby expressed his intention to register his concerns with the Security Council in writing. This is going to be a difficult issue in an already complicated environment, which the Council must continue to follow.

Ambassador de La Sablière took us to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This case is probably one of the most difficult United Nations operations, but could also turn out to be one of the most successful. The parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are united on the date of 30 June for the elections. There are concerns about campaigning and access to the media for small parties, but there was almost unanimous agreement that there should be adequate consultations in the next few weeks before the elections so that the issues of access and intimidation are appropriately addressed. The presence of the 17,000-strong force of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a European force and the African Union's panel of wise men will be powerful factors in maintaining stability during the elections and during the interim period between the first and second rounds of elections.

There are still concerns about the professionalism and the competence of the newly integrated brigades of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but we were encouraged by the firm commitment of a number of countries and partners in the international community to build a viable national army.

There is still a lot to be desired, especially in the management and governance of the military establishment, particularly the payment of salaries, but this was eloquently brought to the attention of the authorities, and it will continue to be an issue on the agenda well beyond the election period.

We had fruitful discussions with international monetary institutions, in particular the World Bank and

the International Monetary Fund, on issues of governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The issue is on the agenda, but we are dealing with a deeply entrenched culture of non-transparency and opaque administration.

In our discussions, we were confident that, after the elections, these issues would continue to be addressed. We were gratified by the great confidence shown in the Security Council and by the fact that the support that the Security Council is receiving from neighbouring countries is bringing about a unique opportunity for a peaceful transition and the stabilization of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To sum up, I would say that this mission, covering several countries in a very few days, did indeed advance our objectives, and the challenge before us would be to catalyse bilateral diplomatic initiatives in connection with the United Nations and the African Union, to see how the Abuja peace process can be moved forward and also to ensure that the transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo goes according to schedule.

The President: I thank Ambassador Mahiga for his statement.

There are no more speakers on the list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5463

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5463rd meeting

Thursday, 15 June 2006, 11.05 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Nana Effah-Apenteng
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Bolton

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004) (S/2006/360)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-38901 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004) (S/2006/360)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Zebari (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: On behalf of the members of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 30 of resolution 1546 (2004), document S/2006/360.

Members of the Council also have before them photocopies of a letter dated 12 June 2006 from the Secretary-General, transmitting letters concerning the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. This letter and its enclosures will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/2006/394.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2006/377, which contains a letter dated 9 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and by His Excellency Mr. John Bolton, representative of the United States, on behalf of the multinational force.

I now give the floor to Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Ms. Kane: The report of the Secretary-General before the Council details the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) from 8 March to 2 June 2006, based on its mandate under resolution 1546 (2004). I am pleased to brief the Council today on the activities of UNAMI under the leadership of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

During the past months, the Government formation process was at the centre of political attention in Iraq. Following the election for a new parliament on 15 December 2005, Iraq's political leaders engaged in a period of extensive and complex negotiations, which culminated on 20 May in the formation of the first constitutionally elected Government led by Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. Differences of view within and among the political blocs delayed three ministerial appointments. Following further negotiations, this process was completed on 8 June with the confirmation of the Ministers of Defence, Interior and National Security.

Through this process, Iraq's political leaders have shown that they can rise to the challenge of dialogue and compromise with a view to forming an inclusive and democratic Government, despite difficult overall circumstances. This is all the more remarkable given the serious deterioration of the security situation following the Samarra bombing in February 2006.

Of particular concern is the mounting loss of civilian life as a result of insecurity, high levels of violence and a breakdown in law and order. It appears that intercommunal violence and criminal activities have compounded insurgent violence as threats to

national security and stability. Among the most affected provinces were Baghdad, Ninewa, Salahuddin, Anbar and, more recently, Diyala and Basra. In Basra, the Government declared a month-long state of emergency on 31 May and reinforced its security presence. Ta'mim — mostly the city of Kirkuk — also witnessed a growing number of violent incidents.

While the United Nations does not have precise information about the numbers and breakdown of the victims and perpetrators of violence, UNAMI concluded in its latest bimonthly human rights report that "hundreds of civilians are reported killed or wounded weekly, including women and children, as targeted or unintended victims of violent attacks".

The Secretary-General's report emphasizes that March 2006 was the fourth most deadly month since May 2003, with twice as many Iraqis killed as in December 2005. In Baghdad, the Medico-Legal Institute recently confirmed that more than 6,000 bodies were received in the first five months of 2006 alone. These are indeed gruesome figures. Targeted assassinations, including attacks against prominent politicians and their relatives, intimidation, threats and kidnappings appear to be aimed directly at provoking sectarian strife, lawlessness and ungovernability, as well as a general atmosphere of fear and the loss of public trust in the authorities. This violence has led to an increase in internal displacement. Since late February more than 100,000 people have been displaced, adding up to a total of approximately 1.3 million internally displaced persons country-wide.

It is encouraging that immediately upon taking office Prime Minister Al-Maliki expressed his commitment to improve the security situation and promote national reconciliation as his key priorities. His new Government must now be empowered to enable it to heal political and social divisions through dialogue and confidence-building, to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law and to improve the living conditions for all Iraqis. This approach offers the best prospects for ensuring that the political process impacts positively on the security situation. A promised review of anti-terror and de-Baathification legislation will help to shape a more conducive environment for national reconciliation.

However, achieving positive results in all these areas will require time. At the outset, the effectiveness of the new Government will largely be defined by its ability to inspire the confidence of the Iraqi people by taking immediate measures to improve security.

First and foremost, this will require the new Government to gradually take full ownership of its national affairs, including in the vital area of security, assisted, as necessary, by the international community. Efforts by the Multinational Force to speed up the training and equipping of the Iraqi security forces remain indispensable in this regard. A determined effort is also needed to control militias and other unauthorized armed forces with a view to re-establishing a State monopoly on weapons. The United Nations welcomes Prime Minister Al-Maliki's expressed commitment to this issue.

In addition, in tackling violence, both the Iraqi security forces and the Multinational Force have a particular responsibility to act in full accordance with international human rights and humanitarian law. Notwithstanding their efforts to address Iraq's security challenges, the United Nations is deeply concerned about reported violations of those standards and urges the Iraqi security forces, as well as the Multinational Force to ensure full, transparent and effective investigations of all such incidents to prevent their recurrence.

Furthermore, the United Nations hopes that the new Government will make it a priority to set a robust human rights agenda that addresses both past and current human rights violations and includes the establishment of an independent national human rights commission and a centre for missing and disappeared persons. A robust human rights protection mechanism must include investigating all allegations of human rights violations and bringing perpetrators to justice in order to prevent the development of a culture of impunity.

In this context, the United Nations remains concerned about the large number of detainees held in detention centres country-wide without investigation or criminal charges. While we welcome the announcement by the new Government to release 2,500 detainees — on 7 June an initial group of approximately 600 detainees was released — more needs to be done to find constructive solutions to this issue, including the release of the investigation into the illegal detention centre of Al-Jadiriya and of other investigations carried out by the Government on this issue.

In addition to security measures, the new Government will have to take broader measures with the ultimate aim of promoting national reconciliation. Although the new Government bears primary responsibility in this regard, regional countries and the wider international community can play an important role in support of its efforts. The following steps at the national, regional and international level might be considered.

At the national level, it is not just the responsibility of the Government, but of all Iraqi political, social and religious leaders to eschew the politics of sectarianism, hatred and violence, in which everybody ultimately stands to lose, and instead embrace dialogue, compromise and intercommunal harmony in the larger national interest, in which all stand to gain. Through their increasing active participation in Iraq's democratic process, the vast majority of Iraqis have demonstrated time and again that, despite severe provocations, they reject the politics of extremism pursued by a few and are determined to resolve their differences peacefully.

This demonstrates that Iraq has a strong foundation for national reconciliation. Three main elements are needed to succeed. The first is an inclusive political process that is responsive to the needs of all Iraqi constituencies. The second is the political will by all Iraqi leaders to work towards this end, and the third element is effective mechanisms to promote dialogue and consensus-building. The review of the constitution that was agreed upon last year by Iraq's political leaders could be an effective vehicle for advancing the process of national reconciliation, including for reaching a national consensus on a strong framework for the Iraqi State. The constitution provides for the early establishment of a constitutional review committee of the new parliament. The United Nations hopes that the new parliament will address this issue as a matter of priority and remain fully committed to providing continued assistance through UNAMI's Office of Constitutional Support in Baghdad.

The new parliament will also be required to form specialized committees on important issues such as the adoption of an electoral law and the establishment of a new independent high electoral commission. These will be fundamental steps for ensuring effective preparations for future electoral events, such as the planned governorate council and municipal elections. UNAMI also stands ready to continue its support role in this important area.

At the regional level, the League of Arab States is planning to convene a conference on Iraqi national accord. Such a forum could serve to encourage dialogue and consensus among different Iraqi political groups and thus contribute to national reconciliation. Special Representative Qazi and UNAMI are working closely with the League of Arab States on the preparations for that conference — now scheduled for August — in follow-up to the November 2005 Cairo conference. Thorough preparations ensuring broadly and truly representative Iraqi participation and effective follow-up will be an important element for the success of the conference.

At the international level, there is now an opportunity to build a deeper consensus in support of Iraq's transition, including in the Security Council. In addition to fulfilling existing pledges and increasing the levels of debt forgiveness, support for reconstruction and foreign investment and an Iraqi-led framework for mobilizing new and additional international assistance for Iraq that has the broadest possible support from the international community should be considered as a matter of priority. For its part, UNAMI and the country team have continued to support the new Government in establishing effective, transparent and accountable public institutions, providing access to basic services and restoring public infrastructure. UNAMI has also maintained its leading role in donor coordination. We look forward to discussing our future support role in this area in the context of the priorities of the new national development strategy.

As noted in the Secretary-General's report, the Organization's presence and ability to operate effectively in Iraq remain severely constrained by the security environment. To provide United Nations staff with the best security possible, and therefore continue to maintain a presence in Iraq, a number of mitigating and protective measures are in place. The development of an integrated long-term United Nations complex in Baghdad has continued, and new premises in Erbil and Basra have now been completed. For the foreseeable future, the United Nations will continue to rely on the Multinational Force for static and movement protection.

With respect to dedicated air assets, we very much welcome the decision by Denmark to offer UNAMI a dedicated aircraft, and look forward to discussions on the implementation arrangements of that offer.

We are also grateful to all other Member States that, in a variety of roles, support the work of the United Nations in Iraq from its bases inside the country, as well as in Jordan and Kuwait.

The United Nations remains fully committed, circumstances permitting, to implement its mandate under resolution 1546 (2004). Special Representative Qazi and his team stand ready to render their good offices and provide political facilitation to the new Government, with a view to promoting dialogue and national reconciliation. In addition, we intend to strengthen our activities in other key areas of our mandate, particularly concerning reconstruction and development. We look forward to a comprehensive and sustained dialogue with the new Government to explore how we can best fulfil our mandate within the prevailing circumstances.

In conclusion, with the establishment of the first constitutionally elected Government, Iraq's political transition, set forth in the Transitional Administrative Law endorsed by resolution 1546 (2004), has been completed. Over the past three years, Iraq's transition has moved successfully from the Governing Council to the Interim Government and the Transitional Government. That culminated, in December 2005, in Iraq's first elections for a constitutionally elected Government. During that process the Iraqi people showed great courage in participating in two elections and one constitutional referendum, under very difficult circumstances. These are important accomplishments that have laid the foundations for Iraq's democratic future, which need to be sustained with the full support of the international community.

That successful political transition, however, has been accompanied by continued instability, violence and gross violations of fundamental human rights by all sides. While it may be understandable that, due to their transitory character, previous Governments were unable to take some of the hard decisions required to address the urgent needs of the Iraqi people, the establishment of a constitutionally elected Government for a full four-year term offers new hope.

Throughout their long history, the people of Iraq have demonstrated that they have all the necessary human, financial and natural capital to succeed. The key to success remains finding lasting inclusive political solutions to Iraq's most pressing challenges within an overall framework of national reconciliation. The United Nations remains committed to playing its part in that endeavour.

The President: I thank Assistant Secretary-General Kane for her briefing.

Mr. Bolton (United States of America): As requested by Security Council resolutions 1546 (2004) and 1637 (2005), I am pleased to report to the Security Council on behalf of the 29 countries making up the Multinational Force (MNF) on the Force's progress towards fulfilling its mandate.

This reporting period has borne witness to a striking development. On 7 June, MNF and Iraqi forces killed Al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist leader Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi and one of his key associates, Sheikh Abd Al-Rahman, in an air strike against an identified isolated safehouse. Tips and intelligence from Al-Zarqawi's own network led forces to Al-Zarqawi and several of his associates, who were conducting a meeting. Although the original leader of Al-Qaida in Iraq is now dead, he has been replaced, and the terrorist organization still poses a threat, as its members will continue to attempt to intimidate the Iraqi people and threaten the Iraqi Government as it moves towards greater stability and prosperity.

The Iraqi people overwhelmingly reject violence as a means to drive political change. The international community continues to stand with the people of Iraq in their determined drive for a secure, stable and democratic country. We honour the memory and sacrifice of all who have lost their lives in the struggle for a federal, democratic, pluralistic and unified Iraq.

There have been historic developments since our last report, some of them unfolding even as we meet today. Iraq's leaders and the Iraqi people reached a critical milestone in Iraq's political development on 22 April, when Iraqi political leaders announced the selection of senior members of a new Government, including the Prime Minister-designate, President, two Deputy Presidents and Speaker of the Council of Representatives. That key event was followed on 20 May by the approval by the Council of Representatives of nearly all of Prime Minister

Maliki's Cabinet. The final three ministers were approved on 8 June. Prime Minister Maliki and his Council of Ministers brought into office with them the hopes of all Iraqis, as well as the good wishes of the international community. So significant was the combination of forming a fully democratic Government and the well-deserved end of Al-Zarqawi that President Bush this week visited Baghdad to demonstrate our commitment to those who support peace and democracy and oppose the terrorists.

The extremists and terrorists remain capable of, and intent on, carrying out attacks against Iraqi civilians, officials and security forces, with the goal of destabilizing the legitimately elected Government of Iraq and denying the Iraqi people the democracy that they have chosen through free and fair elections.

During this period more than 81 per cent of attacks were concentrated in four of Iraq's 18 provinces — Baghdad, Al Anbar, Salah ad Din and Ninawa. Since our last report, Diyala province and Ninawa province were among the four most attack-prone provinces. Twelve provinces, containing more than 50 per cent of the population, experienced only 6 per cent of all attacks. Nine provinces have averaged one or no attacks per day since February.

In addition to the threat from terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida in Iraq, militias and other groups continue to challenge the rule of law at the local and regional levels. Attacks on Iraq's infrastructure continue to adversely affect oil revenues and the availability of electricity. However, the number of infrastructure attacks has declined since August 2005, suggesting that efforts by the MNF and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to secure Iraq's infrastructure are meeting with some success. The Multinational Force will continue to work with the Iraqi Government and other international partners to strengthen further infrastructure security.

The Iraqi Security Forces continue to grow, improve and conduct more and more independent operations each day. Multinational Forces continue to train, mentor and equip the ISF and to hand over battle responsibilities to Iraqi forces as proficiency allows and conditions permit. Transfers are evaluated area by area and region by region, and are incremental to ensure an effective and successful handover of security responsibilities.

As of 29 May, 111 Iraqi army, strategic infrastructure and special operations battalions are conducting counter-insurgency operations. Seventy-one of those battalions are operating in the lead with coalition support and several are operating independently. All 28 Iraqi National Police battalions are operational, with two of those battalions also operating in the lead with coalition support. Iraqi Security Forces assuming security and control of their own areas of responsibility increased to two division headquarters, 16 brigade headquarters and 63 battalions. Those areas include more than 30,000 square miles of Iraq. By the end of the summer, 75 per cent of Iraqi brigades and battalions will be leading counter-insurgency operations with coalition support.

A strong Iraqi Security Force presence continues in Baghdad. Iraqi forces now total over 265,000 Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior personnel trained and equipped for counter-insurgency operations. That includes over 117,000 Ministry of Defence personnel, over 103,000 police and over 45,000 other Ministry of Interior forces.

Recent examples of how Iraqi Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior forces are progressing in the ability to provide security to the Iraqi people include the following. In late March, 196 Iraqi police officers, known as the sons of Al Anbar, successfully graduated from the Baghdad police academy. Upon their return to Ramadi, where they protect the people of their home province, they were enthusiastically greeted by Iraqi and multinational forces. "We are the future of Iraq, each and every one of us", proclaimed one new graduate. "We will make a difference for our sons and daughters."

In April, the 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, began the first phase of assuming responsibility for security in Salah ad Din province. The event was commemorated with a ceremony attended by Multinational Force and Iraqi officials. The 1st Brigade has progressively taken a larger role in security for the province by assuming responsibility for security in residential areas including Samarra and Tikrit.

In April, soldiers from the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division conducted Operation Cobra Strike with MNF forces. Cobra Strike was a mission to locate the suspected leader and financier of a terrorist cell working in the

area. Iraqi leadership planned the scheme of manoeuvres for the operation. MNF forces were on hand in an advisory role.

In May, the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division assumed the lead in security operations in and around Sinjar, in western Ninawa province, marking another example of the steadily-increasing Iraqi army role in providing security to the people of Iraq.

In May, the first class of 20 Iraqi soldiers graduated from the Iraqi army basic medical course, certifying them as Iraqi medics who will serve with the Iraqi military throughout western Al Anbar province. The goal is to have 150 trained Iraqi medics by year's end to serve with the army, partnered with the MNF forces throughout the province.

United Nations contributions are vital. We urge the United Nations to continue to fulfil its mandate under Security Council resolution 1546 (2004). Considerable work remains. We look forward to UNAMI's expansion of its presence in Iraq, especially to Basra and Erbil.

The Multinational Force, notably the Georgian, Romanian and South Korean contingents, continues to provide security for the United Nations in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil, respectively. The troops provide static site security, reconnaissance, security patrols, convoy escorts, checkpoints and when necessary, MEDEVAC and emergency evacuation. Also, Fijian troops provide static and close-in protection for United Nations personnel and facilities in Baghdad.

The measure of success will be the dawn of the day when the Iraqi people are fully able to secure their own safety, freedom and prosperity. Training Iraqi security forces to assume primary responsibility for security is essential. The completion of the Government formation process under the popularly-ratified constitution heralds the beginning of a new era in Iraq's history. Prime Minister Maliki's Government faces great challenges. We hope that he will work to promote national dialogue and inclusion, as well as to strive tirelessly to deliver improvements in security, stability and quality of life to the Iraqi people.

The international community and Iraq's neighbours, especially Syria and Iran, must do more to stop foreign fighters from entering Iraq. Additionally, they must do more to answer the Security Council's call in resolution 1546 (2004) to end material and financial support for individuals and groups that oppose the new legitimate Iraqi Government. Moreover, we call upon the entire international community to support Iraq's sovereign Government and to redouble its assistance efforts.

In conclusion, the MNF and combined MNF-ISF operations continue to provide the security necessary for Iraq's new democratically elected constitutional Government to succeed. We are pleased to note Foreign Minister Zebari's 9 June letter (S/2006/377, annex) to the Security Council, expressing the Iraqi Government's support for the MNF's continued role in providing for security and stability in Iraq. The MNF remains committed to its responsibilities and to achieving ultimate success.

The President: I thank Mr. Bolton for his briefing.

I invite His Excellency, Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq to take the floor.

Mr. Zebari (Iraq): I thank the members of the Security Council for allowing me the privilege of addressing the Council today. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1637 (2005), and pursuant to Iraq's request in a letter to the Security Council dated 27 October 2005 (S/2005/687, annex), the mandate of the Multinational Force in Iraq is now due for review.

Over the previous 12 months, despite formidable challenges, the people of Iraq have realized historic progress towards a pluralistic, federal and united democracy. The Transitional National Assembly drafted a new permanent constitution, which was successfully ratified through public referendum on 15 October 2005. In December, over 70 per cent of the eligible electorate voted for Iraq's first constitutional Government, in the third internationally approved election of 2005. This inspiring exercise of our democratic rights is a credit to the determination and courage of the Iraqi people to secure their future and their country.

Our first permanent national unity Government has now assumed office for a four-year term in accordance with the constitution, and is held accountable by the 275 men and women of the freely elected Council of Representatives. These achievements mark the completion of our timely

compliance with our obligations under the political process mandated in Iraq's transitional administrative law and endorsed in resolution 1546 (2004).

However, as we have enjoyed this political progress, a difficult and destructive security situation persists. We continue to fight an insurgency, crime, incidents of sectarian violence and foreign terrorists trying to incite civil war and prevent the consolidation of our democratic gains. The continued cooperation between Iraqi forces and the Multinational Force remains necessary for our security and critical to attaining the goal of self-sufficiency in defending our country and securing peace.

In reference to my letter to the President of the Security Council of 9 June (S/2006/377, annex), the Government of Iraq therefore requests, and welcomes, the continued presence of the Multinational Force in our country. We thank those forces, and the coalition countries, for their vital contribution and commitment to the people of Iraq.

With the formation of a new full-term Government, and the recent elimination of the most notorious terrorist, Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, who was responsible for the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in August 2003, we sense a great momentum among the Iraqi people and a very real chance to turn our situation around.

But we remain realistic. We do not underestimate the challenge of getting a tight grip on the insurgency and uniting the country behind the new Government. Our agenda includes security as our immediate priority and the critical prerequisite to progress on national reconciliation, Government performance and economic development. In cooperation with the MNF, NATO training missions and protection forces of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), we are building up the capacity, training, professionalism and equipment of Iraqi forces. We share the same end goal as our coalition allies: for our forces to reach self-sufficiency as soon as possible so that the multinational troops can return home with our great gratitude.

Volunteer recruits represent a cross-section of Iraqi society under the banner of Iraqi national identity. The Government of Iraq, as the sole legitimate administrator of armed forces, will activate its policy to demobilize militia members and integrate them into society.

Our forces are gradually assuming responsibility for significant areas of the country and are leading independent offensive operations with visible success. As the ongoing process of handing over security responsibilities from the MNF to Iraqi forces continues, more provinces will come under our control. Eliminating Zarqawi was a major blow to the Al-Qaida terrorist network and a victory for the MNF and the Iraqi forces and people, and for our intelligence gathering operations, a key weapon in the fight against terror networks and insurgency. As I speak today, a large security operation is under way in Baghdad, conducted jointly by Iraqi forces and the Multinational Force, to secure the political and economic heart of Iraq. This security plan will be extended to the rest of the country.

My Government understands that security operations must go hand in hand with a series of initiatives to promote national consensus, tolerance, justice and respect for human rights. Already our Government has, in a goodwill gesture of amnesty, released hundreds of detainees and prisoners. We continue to pursue political dialogue to broaden the political process. Despite intimidation, Sunni leaders joined us at the negotiating table. Last year, they boycotted elections; today they are an essential part of the national unity Government and hold top cabinet positions.

Recently, Iraq and the Arab League jointly agreed to hold a reconciliation conference in Baghdad in early August. Under this umbrella, all those who believe in the political process and who are ready to abandon terrorism and violence as a means to an end will have the opportunity to participate, along with other Arab countries, a number of other friendly countries and the United Nations.

Contrary to media portrayals and despite the terrorist tactics, civil war is not taking place in Iraq. However, there are increased incidents of sectarian violence. But Iraqis have a long history of peaceful coexistence. We have explicitly rejected attempts to stoke sectarian strife by exercising remarkable unity and restraint and by voting for a sovereign National Unity Government. That Government is broadly representative of, and is governing by the consent of, Iraq's multiethnic religious and political society. It assumes its legitimacy and authority from the constitution, which itself is a product of an inclusive process of consultation and compromise.

Our next political challenge is the review of the constitution within agreed mechanisms stipulated in its charter. Successfully identifying necessary revisions and accommodating competing interests will further strengthen national consensus.

For us to consolidate political stability we must also expedite socio-economic development and reconstruction. My Government is acting fast to restore public confidence by giving high priority to the provision of basic services and strengthening the Commission for Public Integrity to eradicate corruption and improve accountability. We are undertaking broad ministerial reform, capacity-building and modernizing of institutions within a core framework of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. At the same time, we plan to accelerate the pace of reconstruction and lay the foundations of a sustainable economy to generate employment, stimulate the private sector and capitalize on Iraq's wealth of natural resources. Whereas over the previous three years development has been frustrated, mainly by lack of security but also by transnational administration, we can now benefit from continuity in long-term planning in line with Iraq's national development strategy. As the mandates of the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board are also due for review, the Government of Iraq proposes to continue the present arrangements according to resolution 1637 (2005). These bodies play a crucial role in promoting transparency in the disbursements of Iraq's resources for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

We also note the support of UNAMI in the constitutional process, humanitarian assistance, donor coordination and electoral assistance. We ask that the United Nations continue to offer its unique expertise for the forthcoming provincial elections throughout Iraq. We commend the work of the Special Representative, Ambassador Ashraf Qazi, and welcome UNAMI's proposal for the Baghdad peace initiative to help bridge communal differences. We also note the Secretary-General's concerns regarding human rights in his quarterly report to the Security Council. While the primary perpetrators of human rights abuses in Iraq are the insurgents, terrorists and criminals, we as a Government acknowledge our ongoing obligation to uphold and protect human rights as enshrined in our constitution. The Government of Iraq is committed to meeting violations with justice and reaffirms its commitment to establishing an independent human rights commission in Iraq.

We continue to need the United Nations to engage in Iraq to its maximum capacity. We call upon Member States to step up the provision of funds and operational support, and my Government pledges to provide any assistance necessary to enhance the United Nations mission. As security in Iraq improves, we request that the United Nations reinforce its staff and increase its role throughout the country. We must not underestimate the positive impact of a sovereign, united and stable Iraq at the strategic and geographical heart of the Middle East. We have demonstrated that our progress does not contradict the interests of our neighbours. We continue to pursue regional cooperation on economic exchanges, political dialogue and border security in order to promote peaceful coexistence with our neighbours. Furthermore, we expect our neighbours to demonstrate genuine support for the new Government and goodwill in securing borders and preventing arms, foreign elements and terrorists from crossing into Iraq to undermine the stability of the new Government.

We believe that the formation of an international contact group, involving Iraq's neighbours, the five permanent members of the Council, the United Nations and the Arab League, would be a fair and useful means to build international support for regional security and to enhance reconstruction plans for the country.

We would also like to take this opportunity to point out that the time is now ripe for the Security Council to review the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission mandate with a view to terminating it, since the circumstances that led to its creation no longer exist.

The Government of Iraq thanks the United Nations for its expressed support as we begin our challenging mandate. We ask that the international community take this opportunity to revitalize its assistance and support to Iraq and fulfil donor pledges already made at Madrid, Amman and Tokyo so as to help my Government to accomplish its responsibilities to our people.

This is the beginning of a new chapter in Iraq's transformation from dictatorship to a sovereign, peaceful and prosperous federal democracy, as voted for by the Iraqi people. My Government recognizes that we have a critical window of opportunity to break

with the past. The future of the country is up to us, and we are seizing the initiative. We have paid dearly — along with the sacrifices of the sons and daughters of our allies — and we will not let our losses be in vain. The more help we receive now, the sooner we can succeed in our common cause.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I should now like to invite Council members to a private meeting to continue our discussion of the item.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5464

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 June 2006

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5464th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 June 2006, at 11.55 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5464th meeting, held in private on 15 June 2006, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'The situation concerning Iraq'.

"In accordance with the decision taken at the 5463rd meeting held earlier, the President extended an invitation under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq.

"In accordance with the decision taken at the 5463rd meeting, the President extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Angela Kane, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

"Members of the Council, Ms. Kane and His Excellency Mr. Zebari had an exchange of views."

06-38975 (E) 150606

United Nations S/PV.5465

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5465th meeting

Thursday, 15 June 2006, 3.20 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Makayat-Safouesse
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Yankey
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. Pérez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2006/315)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-39055 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2006/315)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, document S/2006/315.

Members also have before them document S/2006/393, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I should like to inform the Council that, in my capacity as President of the Council, I met with the representatives of the parties, who have confirmed to me that they maintain their well-known positions vis-à-vis the item on the Council's agenda. On the basis of those meetings, as President, with the consent of members of the Council, I have drawn the conclusion that the Council can proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution before it.

Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1687 (2006).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Vassilakis (Greece): My delegation has just voted in favour of resolution 1687 (2006), which extends the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus for a further six-month period, because it considers that the presence of the Peacekeeping Force on the island continues to be indispensable and imperative owing to the continuing presence of approximately 40,000 Turkish troops on the island and the security threat that that represents for international peace and security.

There is no doubt that it is our common wish and desire around this table that a just and permanent solution be found to the problem of Cyprus on the basis of Security Council resolutions so that the island can be reunified and the two communities can enjoy a common future, to the benefit of the maintenance of peace and security both on the island and in the region.

The Secretary-General is about to dispatch the Under-Secretary-General of Political Affairs to the region in an attempt to strengthen the ongoing efforts on the ground and to assess the political situation in and around Cyprus and the prospects for a full resumption of his good offices mission with the two communities. We regret to note, however, that the text adopted here today unfortunately does not convey a sufficiently clear and strong message as to the basis, the scope and the objectives of United Nations efforts for a fair and lasting settlement of the problem of Cyprus.

That is why Greece had insisted on the need to clarify, in the sixth preambular paragraph — in which the Council urges "progress towards the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive settlement" — that it should be reaffirmed that those negotiations have to take place between the two communities.

The President: There are no more speakers on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5466

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5466th meeting

Friday, 16 June 2006, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Afriyie
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Kitaoka
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Matulay
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hoare
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

Security Council mission

Briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-39099 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Briefing by the head of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière, head of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière, head of the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. de La Sablière (*spoke in French*): This was the seventh visit of the Security Council to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It took place just a few weeks prior to a historic event, namely, the presidential and legislative elections of 30 July, which will mark the end of the transition.

The support demonstrated by the Security Council by its presence there this year was justified by the importance of what is at stake and by our resolve to give the Congolese people our fullest support so that the elections can be truly successful — that is, well-organized, free, transparent and credible. Above and beyond the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the success of this important phase of Congolese recovery should affect the stability of the whole region, and possibly even the continent, for this country at the heart of Africa is significant because of its size, its population and its natural resources.

It was therefore natural that by our presence we signalled support for the considerable work being done by Bill Swing and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), which is involved in support operations for the most important elections ever carried out by the United Nations.

Our visit, I believe, was useful and busy. The latter is clear from the programme — meetings with the President, the four Vice-Presidents, the Independent Electoral Commission, the High Media Authority, the political parties and the churches; contacts with Congolese officials in the security area and their international support, in particular the European Union security sector reform mission (EUSEC), EU Police Mission (EUPOL) and EU military operation in the Democratic Republic in the Congo (EUFOR); the Bretton Woods institutions, the business world, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and, of course, the International Committee in Support of the Transition (CIAT) and various representatives of MONUC.

This choice for a very busy visit was made so that we could engage in a fruitful dialogue with all the officials concerned, send a clear message about our expectations and gain greater knowledge about this country so important for Africa, where the presence of the United Nations should be maintained for some time after the elections, in partnership with the Congolese people and authorities.

Our first concern, then, was the success of free elections, the first in 45 years. I do not underestimate the technical problems that may arise here and there, in view of the sophisticated nature of the electoral system chosen by the Assembly and the size of the country and its communications problems. It seems to us — I believe that I reflect the views of the mission — that the engagement is such, the measures put in place are so significant and organized, and the work already accomplished by the Independent Electoral Commission and MONUC is so professional that we have every assurance that the Congolese people will be able to vote under good conditions on 30 July. Council members stated time and again that that date must be maintained.

Free and successful elections also presuppose sufficient security. It is true that violent incidents continue in the east, in Ituri — for example, the hostage-taking of Nepalese soldiers, which we brought up at the appropriate time. I would add that the armed groups — including the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda — have not been fully controlled in Kivu, but these groups and the violent incidents that I mentioned are not likely to significantly disrupt the elections. Everyone agreed on that. In addition, the police training programmes have been well run; 50,000

police officers will take part in the security for the elections. The use of the army will thus be reduced to a minimum and limited to some unstable areas.

Finally, the establishment of a European standby reserve force, authorized by the Security Council and prepared to intervene in support of MONUC, is an additional serious guarantee. That initiative, taken by the Secretary-General, is an excellent one. I believe that we should welcome the broad and diversified support provided to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for this electoral period by the European Union and other countries. To summarize briefly, I would say that in terms of security, I believe we can also be reassured.

Throughout our visit, we emphasized that the elections must be free, transparent and fair. To all our interlocutors, beginning with the President and the Vice-President, we said that the blunders in the pre-election campaign — particularly in the media, which conveyed messages of exclusion and division on the subject of "Congoleseness" — and the personal attacks must be redressed. We stressed the tragic consequences that such messages had recently elsewhere on the continent. The President shared our concern, and more generally, all our interlocutors told us — some more forcefully than others — that they recognized the need to calm people down and to conduct a campaign that was more worthy of a democratic debate.

Likewise, we stressed the need to provide the less important candidates and parties with the necessary access to the media, particularly radio. This problem, which was raised by the High Media Authority and does not require a significant amount of resources to resolve, must be addressed. Here also, we received responses that seemed to justify our concerns. However, we will have to continue to monitor the situation, in particular through what the CIAT will tell us. A number of serious acts of intimidation do not spare journalists or even some candidates. Such acts must stop. Even if they perhaps are of minor significance, it is important to be firm with the interlocutors.

Lastly, it is essential that there be an awareness that the country must continue to be governed and administered during the period between the first round of elections and the establishment of the institutions. We made our interlocutors aware of that problem. I would add that it would be desirable to make that period as short as possible, while respecting texts and technical restraints. On the whole, it seems to us that even if we accurately assess the task and the risks of blunders, we can be reasonably confident. To use an image, I would say that the train is on the tracks; now it has to arrive at the station.

The Congolese people, who have registered in a great national movement to vote and who endorsed the constitution in massive numbers by referendum, deserve these elections. The pressure applied to make sure that they take place under good circumstances is also a fundamental factor that must be taken into account. It is a major responsibility for the Congolese political class, but it is also a very important responsibility for the international community, which is helping the Congolese people.

But, as the Security Council often emphasizes in its statements, elections are not an end in themselves; they are a phase. The people have considerable expectations, and it is important that they perceive a change, which must also be long-term. That is why we greatly stressed the need not only to preserve what has been achieved, but to ensure that it can be fully consolidated and enhanced by the legitimacy provided by the elections and by a uniting of energies after the elections. That is to say, the winners must be generous, and the losers must accept the choice of the voters — the verdict of the elections.

Above all, we must not enter into the political debate, which is not the responsibility of the Security Council and the international community. But we can remind people that inclusiveness will be extremely desirable after the elections so that the Congolese can deal with the many priorities ahead of them. Among those priorities, there are three that we constantly mentioned.

First is the swift completion of the effort to form an integrated and professional national army, which should be of a reasonable size to carry out its missions and should be properly equipped and paid. The elected President and the Government must give priority to that objective, and the international community, in partnership with them, must be better organized than it is today to provide its vital support. I must say that everyone agreed on that objective.

The second priority is resolving the vexing and persistent problem of armed groups in the east. That task must be accomplished. First, it is essential for the

people; it is also important for good relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours, who must also cooperate. In that regard, we welcome the fact that the relationship with Rwanda has very much improved.

Finally, the Congolese must improve the administration of the State. The country's resources are such that they should produce the income necessary to bring the people the prosperity that they are entitled to expect.

The international community, including the Security Council, is now strongly mobilized to help the Congolese people. After the elections, we should remain at their side. We assured them, on behalf of the Council, that that was also part of our message.

In conclusion, I should like to say that I think this Security Council mission — which was very united, and I thank all our colleagues who participated in it — was well received. I believe that that also attests to the kind of excellent work carried out by MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The President: I thank Ambassador de La Sablière for his briefing.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5467

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5467th meeting

Friday, 16 June 2006, 12.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. García Moritán
	China	Mr. Guan Jian
	Congo	Mr. Maboundou
	France	Mrs. Collet
	Ghana	Mr. Afriyie
	Greece	Mrs. Papadopoulou
	Japan	Mr. Tajima
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Thani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Llewellyn
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mrs. Taj
	United States of America	Ms. Willson

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/207)

Letter dated 15 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/406)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-39279 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/207)

Letter dated 15 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/406)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Liberia and Sierra Leone, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Osode (Liberia) and Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone) took seats at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/405, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/2006/207, containing a letter dated 31 March 2006 from the Netherlands, and document S/2006/406, containing a letter dated 15 June 2006 from the United Kingdom.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1688 (2006).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation shares the view of members of the Security Council on the need to hold a trial for former Liberian President Charles Taylor away from the seat of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. We note the constructive role played by the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the authorities at the International Criminal Court and the States parties to the Court's Statute in connection with transferring the trial to The Hague.

At the same time, we would like to inform the members of the Council about how we understand the resolution that has just been adopted.

The Russian Federation believes that, for the purposes of this resolution, action under Chapter VII of the Charter is unique and exceptional in nature, and does not set a precedent for resolving similar issues in the same way.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5468

Security Council

Sixty-first year

Provisional

5468th meeting

Tuesday, 20 June 2006, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Ms. Løj	(Denmark)
Members:	Argentina	Mr. Apparicio Da Silva
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Greece	Mr. Vassilakis
	Japan	Mr. Oshima
	Peru	Mr. De Rivero
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bye
	United Republic of Tanzania	Mr. Mahiga
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/379)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

06-39560 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2006/379)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liberia in which she requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Osode (Liberia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: Before turning to the item on the agenda, let me take this opportunity to remind all delegations that today is World Refugee Day.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2006/379, which contains the text of a letter dated 7 June 2006 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, transmitting the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/2006/413, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, China, Congo, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Japan, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1689 (2006).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.